

THE  
A M O U R S  
O F  
Count *TECKELI*  
And the L A D Y  
Aurora Veronica  
D E  
S E R I N I.

Containing his first Inducements to make War with the Emperour, and to enter into the *Turkish* Interests, against the Christians.

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Translated out of *French*.

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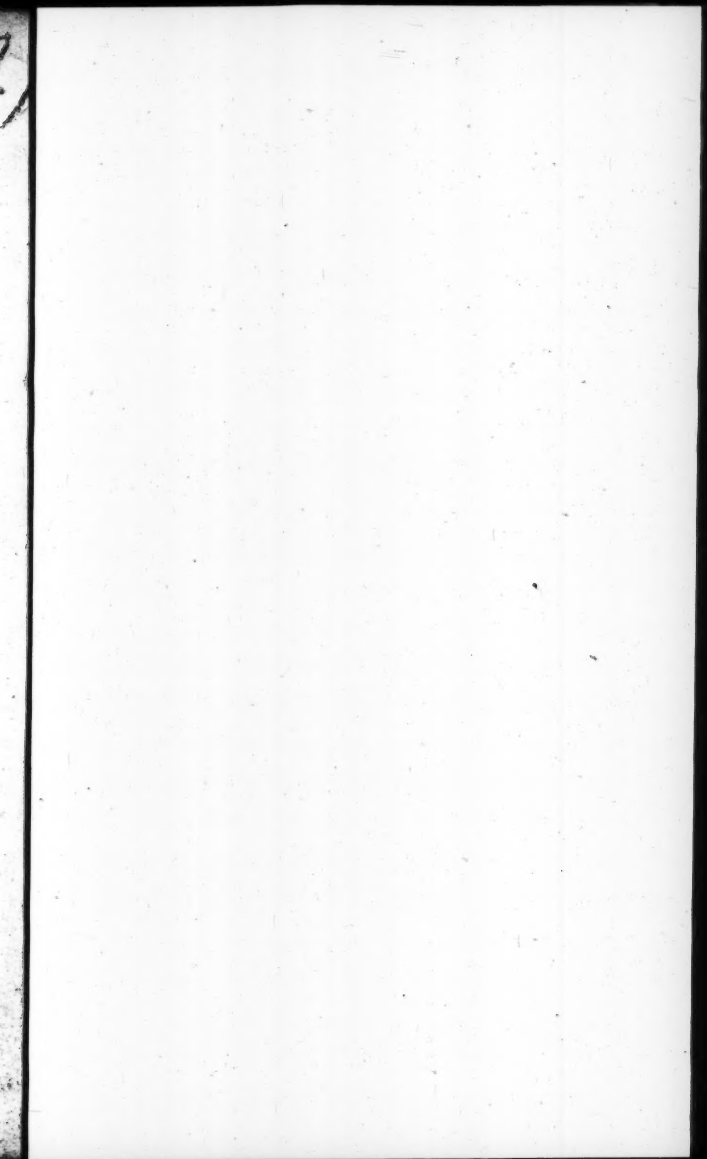
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THE  
AMOURS  
OF

Count *TECKELI*

And the LADY

Aurora Veronica

DE

SERINI.

**H**UNGARY had been  
always an Elective  
Kingdom, before the  
Crown came into  
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the possession of the Princes of the House of *Austria*. And the *Hungarians* had yet preserved some sort of Liberty, by means of the Priviledges which had been granted to them by their first Kings, and of which they made the Observation be sworn to, by all that came to that Crown. The chief points of which were, That no matter of great Importance should be proceeded upon, without the Advice and Consent of the Diet, which should be always called once in three years. That they should be Governed by a *Palatine*, who should have the administration of all the Affairs of War, Government, and Justice. That this *Palatine* should always be of their own Nation: That he

he should be Named by the States, and Confirmed by the King. That none of the Offices of the Kingdom should be given to any but natural *Hungarians*; That no Foreign Forces should be admitted into any of their Places; and that they themselves should have the charge of defending their own Country. The Princes of the House of *Austria*, which having also the Imperial Dignity, with that of Kings of *Hungary* and *Bohemia*, and a great Authority, endeavoured, by little and little, to take away these Priviledges, and chiefly the Emperour *Leopold Ignatius*, who now Reigns. This bred very ill Blood amongst all the Nobility, and it chiefly provoked Count *Wesse-*

*lini*, who was then *Palatine*, who resolved to shake off a yolk, which seemed too heavy to him; but he could not put so great a Design in execution by his own Power, he therefore resolved to engage all the other Lords of his Country; and principally the Protestants, taking for a pretence, that the Emperour, by the Advice of his Evil Ministers, disturbed them in the exercise of their Religion. *Wesselini*, who knew Love to be the great Spring which moves the greatest Affairs, resolved to make use of it for the executing of his design. *Aurora Veronica*, Daughter to Count *Peter de Serini*, seemed to him very proper to act so important a part. She had Beauty, a penetrating



trating Wit, and a way so insinuating, that it was capable of gaining the most Rebellious of Hearts. Besides, having been bred up in the House of *Katherine Frangipani*, her Mother, who was one of the most Ambitious Women in *Europe*, it was impossible for her not to be inspired with some of the same Thoughts. Count *Serini* was newly made Ban or Vice-Roy of *Croatia*, which Employment the Emperour gave him, upon the vacancy of it, by the Death of *Nicholas de Serini*, his Brother, which made him absolute Master of that whole Province. But this Count being dissatisfied with the Court, for having refused him the Government of *Carolstad*, the Capital City of his Government,

and the Command of a separate Body of an Army, to serve against the *Turks*. These were all favourable Conjunctions, to draw him into the Confederacy which the *Palatine* was plotting. *Wesselini* had a Son, well made in his Person, Amorous, and very likely to excite Love; he was called *Vladislavus*. The *Palatine* resolved to make use of him, to gain *Madam de Serini* to his Party, and having communicated to him the design which he had of Marrying him to this lovely Person he commanded him to go to *Lapsina*, a Castle belonging to Count *Serini*, three Leagues from *Schachstorn*, in *Croatia*, where he went to spend the Summer with all his Family, upon pretence of giving

ving that Count advice of the Designs which the *Turks* had upon the Places of his Government, and recommended to him chiefly, to endeavour, during his stay at *Lapsina*, to gain the Love of the Beautiful *Aurora Veronica*, assuring him, that if he could engage the Heart of the young Lady, he would go himself to request her from her Father for him. *Vladislaus*, who had hitherto kept his Liberty, easily submitted to his Father's Commands, and went, within a few days to *Lapsina*, where he was very well received by Count *Serini*, who was over-joyed to shew to the *Palatine*, in the Person of his Son, the Esteem which he had for him. He found with Madam *Serini*, only *Joshua*, a

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young Gentleman of the Neighbourhood, who had been bred near her, and for whom she had, for this reason, a great deal of Complaisance. *Vladislaus* soon perceived *Joshua* was in Love with *Aurora Veronica*, by the uneasiness which his assiduous visits to her, caused in him; but he dissembled the knowledge of it, being fully persuaded, that the Competition of a Man of a Quality so inferiour to his, would not be capable of overthrowing his Designs. *Joshua* did not keep the same moderation; for every one being apt to flatter himself in Love, he had taken the Civility which my Lady *Veronica* had shewed to him for Love, and looked upon any Complaisance, which she shewed

ed for young *Wesselini*, as a breach of Faith towards him. He thought, at first, that she would take notice of his trouble, and that she would change her behaviour towards him. But seeing she did not heed it, and that she suffered him to be devoured by his secret Afflictions, without making the least excuse to her, he thought he was obliged, at length, to break silence. Having, one Evening, found *Madam de Serini* alone with her Daughter, in *Lapsini* Gardens, whilst *Vladislaus* was gone out to Hunt with *Count Serini*, he approached her, and speaking softly, *Tou came, without doubt,* (said he to her) *to think of him, whom you are not allowed to see this day.* My Lady *Veronica*,

having no inclination for *Wessellini*, would not break with *Joshua*, who contributed sometimes to her Diversion, by his lively Wit, pretended not to understand him. *I assure you*, (replied she) *I mind Men so little, that the moment they are not with me, I think to more of them; But yet I thought*, (replied *Joshua* with a tender and passionate Air) *you missed me sometimes heretofore, when I was from you; but since——That happened so seldom*, (said my Lady *Veronica*, interrupting him pleasantly) *that I had not the time to examine my self, whether your Absence made me uneasy. If you have not made these Reflections, in relation to me*, (replied, abruptly, *Joshua*) *it is, it may be, because you have*

a greater Concern for Count Wessellini. As Joshua was speaking these words, Vladislaus, who was come into the Garden, at his return from the Chace, came towards Aurora Veronica. She turned immediately to him, and speaking with the same airiness, *You are come in a very good time, my Lord,* (pursued she) *to answer a Question, which was asked me by this Gentleman, pointing at Joshua. He asks me if I am not uneasy, when you are not with me; what do you think of it? I should account my self very happy,* (replied Wessellini,) *if that were true. You should not long enjoy this Happiness,* (replied Joshua, looking upon his Rival with Eyes wherein his Jealousie was flaming). *And who should disturb my*

my.

*my Happiness? (answered Vladislav with a scornful Air) would you? Methinks our Birth makes a difference great enough between us, for me not to have any cause of fearing your Competition. You thing (replied Joshua sharply) you are yet in Hungary; but I desire you will remember we are in Croatia, and if a man be born a Gentleman, and have Courage, he may account himself equal to all that are not Princes. If you were elsewhere, you should, it may be, not have reason to doubt of what I say; but I know the respect which is due to my Lady, and I shall take a better time to Convince you of it. Finishing these words he went out of the Garden, without waiting for his Rival's Answer.*

*My*



My Lady *Veronica* informed her Father of what had passed between these two Rivals, and the Count immediately caused *Joshua* to be searched for with care; but it was impossible to find him. He remained concealed, for eight days, near the Castle, and took his time so well, that, one morning, when he was no more thought of, *Wesselini* being gone out of the Castle, to walk in the cool of the Morning, he came out of his Ambuscade, and coming up fiercely to the *Palatine's* Son, forced him to draw his Sword. They both fighting with great eagerness, the Combate would have been fatal to one or the other, and it may be to both, if Count *Serini* had not come to part them. He caused *Wesselini*

*felini* to be carried to the Castle, he being wounded in many places. But *Joshua*, who was least hurt, went away with all speed, no body discovering which way he took. Madam *de Serini*, did not in along time hear any news of this desperate Lover, and found him not again until ten years after this time, by a strange surprizing Accident, vvhich I shall relate in the end of this following Discourse.

Count *Serini* having given an Acconnt to the *Palatine*, of his Sons being wounded, he came over immediately to *Lapfina*, and was glad by discharging this natural Obligation, to be able to lay the foundation of a Plot, which he had in his Head. He found his Son  
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in a pretty good Condition, by the Care which had been taken of him, and therefore he would no longer defer, breaking the Matter to the Countess of *Serini*. The first time he found himself alone with her, he intrusted her with the thoughts he had, of delivering *Hungary* from the Bondage, under which the Emperour kept the Nobility and Commonalty. The *Palatine* had no sooner made this overture, but she promis'd to concur with him, with all her Power, and to speak of it to her Husband, and to Count *Frangipani* her Brother, who was to be at *Lapsina* within two days. The Countess perform'd her promise to the *Palatine*, and represented to her Husband, who was dissatisfied

tisfied at the refusal which had been made to him, of the Government, of *Carolstadt*, that he might by the means of this League, make himself Sovereign of *Croatia*. The Count was caught by this Bait, and finding his Brother-in-Law of the same mind, they conferred both with the *Palatine*, by the means of the Countess. The only thing which staid the Execution of their Design, was to finde out a Fond great enough, to raise and maintain the Forces, which they should be oblig'd to have on foot. The Countess, being an *Italian* Lady, could not want Expedients, proposed engaging in their Party, Prince *Ragotski*, whose Father, who had been Prince of *Transylvania*, had heaped up great Riches, which his  
Widow

Widow kept at *Mencatz*, a strong Place in upper *Hungary*, and that not to fail of what would be absolutely necessary for their undertaking, it would be convenient to marry the young Lady *Serini* to that Prince. The Palatine having relished this Proposition, told the Company, that this Prince intended to go for a Month to *Drontheim*, to take the Waters, and it was resolved that the Countess should go thither with her Daughter, to shew her to the Prince, and endeavour to make him in Love with her.

Whilst these four Persons took measures for the making of War. Count *Teckeli*, who was *Wesselini's* Friend, having heard of his Duel, and of his  
Wounds

Wounds, at the Castle of *Kuss*, being then with his Father, came to *Lapfina*, to give him a visit. The Countess, to whom his Courage was known, knew that it would be of great Advantage to the Conspirators, for them to get this Young Count to enter into the Confederacy. To succeed in this Design, she thought, she ought to make Love be of use to Ambition, and commanded her Daughter to make use of all her Charms, to endeavour to please *Teckeli*. She could not command a more pleasant thing to Lady *Veronica*, for the first time she had seen Count *Teckeli*, she had felt some Inclination towards him, and did wish he loved her. *Teckeli* on his part, had had the same thoughts, and

and they passed some days without explaining themselves, than by their Looks, and emotions of their Hearts. *Teckeli* being very familiar with young *Wessellini*, he asked him the ground of his Quarrel with *Joshua*, and *Vladislaus* made no difficulty of trusting him with it, he added also, that his Father was come, on purpose to *Lapfina*, to conclude a marriage between him and Lady *Veronica de Serini*, and that he believed she would consent to it, without much repugnance, because she had always shewn to him a great deal of Favour, since he had been at the Castle.

*Teckeli* seemed struck, as with a Thunderbolt, when he heard this news; and in the fear wherein he was, that *Wessellini*

*lini* should perceive his Concern, he went out of the Room, upon a pretence which he made upon the sudden. *Teckeli*, since this fatal Confidence, fell into a deep Melancholly, which surpriz'd every body at *Lapsina*. Lady *Veronica*, who had a greater share in it than the others, was most earnest to clear her doubts. One Night as *Teckeli* led her, walking with her, she could not forbear saying to him, seeing him wrapped up in so deep a study, *I see, my Lord, you are weary of Lapsina, and you are troubled at your having quitted the Diversions which you had in Hungary, to come into Croatia, where you find none of those Sports. From whence comes it, Madam,* (replied the Count) *that you*  
*make*



make this judgment of me? Do you think I have so little understanding, as to be tired with a Place where you are? It looks as if you found little satisfaction in my Company, (replied Lady Veronica) since you speak to me only, when Civility forces you to answer me, and I am forced to keep up the Conversation, which you suffer to fall every moment, you must necessarily have your mind prepossess'd with some trouble. It is not, replied the Count sending forth a sigh, for my having abandoned my self to the Pleasure which I took at Lapsina, and for having suffered my self to be deceiv'd by flattering Hopes, that I have fallen into the despairing Condition wherein you see me. Adieu, Madam; do not force me to tell you more,  
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*I should it may be, attract your hatred, and I should yet be more Teckeli; unfortunate than I am.* ~~Wesset~~ ending these words, took his leave of Lady *Veronica*, leaving her in a great disorder of mind. She did not find, that he could by loving her commit so great a Crime, as not to dare to make a Confession of it to her, and she could not imagine vvhhat he found himself Guilty of.

Count *Teckeli* on his side, found it so very difficult to hide from his Mistress, the trouble with which his mind was perplexed, that at last with the force he had used to himself, he fell into so violent a Fever, that the third day his life was despaired of. Lady *Veronica* vvent to give him a Visit, and

and having pressed him extremely, to tell her the cause of his Melancholly; he confessed to her, that from the first moment that he had seen her, he had been so stricken vvith her Charms, and not being capable of hoping ever to possess her, since she was designed for Count *Wesselini*, it vvould be no regret to him, to part vvith his life, vvwhich could not be tollerable to him vvithout her. Lady *Keronica* undeceived him, and told him that if *Wesselini* had any design upon her, he had never let her knowv it, and that he had not so much as propos'd any thing concerning such an Affair to her Relations, and that he might assure himself, that if she had  
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the freedom of her Choice, he should be no longer unhappy. This flattering Discourse had more effect than all the Physicians Remedies. The joy which this caused in *Teckeli*, soon cured his Disease, and in a few days his Feaver left him. The Countess of *Serini*, to whom the Daughter gave an Account of *Teckeli's* Discourse, went to see him, so soon as she heard she might discourse with him, without prejudicing his Health, and after having given him to understand, that Count *Serini* would think himself honoured by an Alliance with him, she hinted to him something of the Conspiracy. *Teckeli*, who wished with passion, for an opportunity of doing Count *Serini* some important

tant Service, which might oblige him to prefer him before other Pretenders, in the choice of a Son-in-Law, promised the Countess to return to *Rus*, so soon as he was in a condition to sit on Horse-back, and to use all his skill and endeavours to bring his Father into this League.

On another hand, *Wesselini*, being perfectly cured of his Wounds, desired the *Palatine* to Request for him Lady *Veronica* from her Parents; but he was strangely astonished, when his Father told him, he ought to think no more of her, for she was designed for Prince *Ragotski*. *Vladislaus* in vain represented to his Father, the violent Passion which he

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had

had for Lady *Veronica Serini*, and that he himself had kindled the Fire which Consumed him. This severe old Man answered his Son, with a Tone which exacted Obedience, that Persons of his Age and Quality, ought to be sensible of no other Passion but Ambition; that his Design was to make him Reign in *Hungary*, and to assure him a Crown, which the Priaces of the House of *Austria* intended to perpetuate in their Family, contrary to the fundamental Laws of the Kingdom. He then explain'd to him the measures which he had taken with Count *Serini*, and the necessity which there was of engaging Prince *Ragotski* in his Party, by the Alliance which he

he had projected. But fearing lest a longer stay might increase his Son's Passion, and hinder him from obeying his Commands, he resolved to depart from thence the next day, to return to *Murano*, and took with him this unfortunate Lover.

Count *Teckeli* made little stay after the departure of the *Palatine*, to take his leave of Lady *Veronica*, that he might be quickly with his Father, to perswade him to enter into the Confederacy. The farewell he took of *Aurora*, was tender and passionate on both sides, and she promised the Count, that provided he could get the consent of her Parents, he should find no Obstacle on

her side, and that she should obey, without reluctance, the Commands they should lay upon her of marrying him. She told him, she was within a Month to go with them to *Drontheim*, to drink the Waters. And *Teckeli* promised to meet her there, and to give her an account of his Negotiation. Scarce was *Teckeli* gone from *Lapsna*, when the Count of *Tachtembach* came thither, to increase the number of the Conquests of Lady *Veronica Serini*. He is one of the greatest men of *Stiria*, handsom enough, magnificent in all his Actions, but Voluptuous, without being Amorous. The very first day he saw my Lady *Veronica*, he told her, without any difficulty, in plain terms he loved her,



her, and desired her of her Father for his Wife, not doubting but that his offer would be embraced, they knowing his Estate and Birth. Count *Serini* received the Proposition very civilly; but not intending to refuse it, nor yet to engage himself to him, he answered him only, that he ought to give himself time to be acquainted with his Daughter, and let her know his Humour, to see if they were proper for each other; and changing at the same time the Subject of their discourse, to free himself from *Tachtembach's* Persecutions, who would absolutely compleat the marriage, before he left *Lapsina*, he told him of the report which was very hot, that the King of *Spain* was dead, and that the

Emperour intending to go to take possession of that Crown, the Empress was to govern in his absence the Hereditary Provinces, with the Title of Regent. *If this news be true, added Count Serini, we should be very unhappy, to be reduced to submit to the Government of a Woman.* Tachtembach, who affected to be Gallant, answered, *that Men were born only to obey the fair Sex. There is a great deal of difference,* replied Count Serini, *between an Obedience which is voluntarily paid to a Person one loves, and that which one is forced to pay to a Sovereign Princess.* Whilst Count Serini was speaking thus, the Countess his Wife came into them, and he being willing to let her finish what he

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he had but rough drawn, he added, he would be judged by the Countess, and having informed her in few words, of the Subject of their Discourse, he engaged her to tell his Friend. The Countess, who had a great deal of subtle wit, and that so well turned, that she described so lively to *Tachtembach*, the shame it was, to live in such a slavery as the Princes of the House of *Austria* had reduced the *Hungarians* to, that it raised in him an earnest desire to throw off so heavy a Yoak, and then taking up again her pleasant Air, she told him that the Count her Husband, being like to be suddenly King of *Croatia*, she would not marry her Daughter to any but a Sovereign Prince,

and that he should consider with himself, whether he had Courage enough to make himself Master of *Stiria*.

The Conversation was carried no farther this day, but Count *Serini* had many other discourses with *Tachtembach*, wherein they discussed this matter to the Bottom. *Tachtembach* objected several difficulties, viz. the Number of the Forces fit to be raised, the money necessary to keep them up, and what Places could be had convenient to retire into. Count *Serini* answered all these Objections, and told him he was Master of *Schachthorn*, the *Palatine* of *Murano*; and that *Ragotski*, whom they intended to get into the Confederacy, would

would deliver up *Mencatz*, and would raise Forces with the Money which his Father had gathered, and kept in that Castle; that therefore *Tachtembach* should only need to make himself Master of *Gratz*. In that he knew so well how to manage this Counts humour, that he made him sign a Treaty, of which he had drawn a Project with the *Palatine*, before he went away. *Tachtembach*, after having been a fortnight at *Lapsina*, took leave of Count *Serini*, and desired him to come to see him, at the Castle of *Krantzfeld*, with the Countess his Wife, and the Charming *Aurora Veronica*; which the Count easily promised him, being desirous to keep him in the good disposition

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sition into which he brought him.

The season for drinking the Waters drawing near, Count *Serini* thought it requisite not to defer, any longer, his Journey to *Krantzfeld*, that he might afterwards go to *Drontheim*, without passing by *Lappina* again. *Tachembach* having had notice, by a Letter from Count *Serini*, that he was setting out to go to visit him with all his Family, prepared to entertain him with his usual Magnificence; and having sent for Actors and Violins to *Gratz*, he set out at the head of fifty Gentlemen very richly dressed, and bravely mounted, and went to meet Count *Serini*, as far as *Puttow*, which is the last Town

Town of *Stiria*, towards *Croatia*. He then conducted this lovely Company, which came to visit him, to *Krantzfeld*, always riding by the Coach side, entertaining the Ladies. During the eight days which Count *Serini* remained at this Castle, *Tachtembach* invented every day some new Divertisement, sometimes Hunting, another time Fishing, or Hawking; sometimes the wrestling of Peasants, or the running of Boat-men at each other upon a great Canal; giving every Night a Play and a Ball, with very pleasant Masquerades and Musick in *Recitativo*. I do not mention good Chear, that being the usual Regale of the  *Germans*; and it may be said, that there was never seen so great  
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an abundance, and so many Delicacies on the Emperour's Table, as there were at *Krantzfield*, whilst this entertainment lasted. But *Tachtembach*, loving Debauchery a little too much, when the Ladies were retired to their Chambers, they fell to drinking, which they continued the greatest part of the Night. It is easie to imagine, that after excesses of this kind, *Tachtembach* could not make his Court agreeably to his Mistress, and that he chose rather to absent himself from her, than let her perceive his sighs smelled too much of Wine.

In the height of all these Diversions, *Aurora Veronicabeg*an to be weary of *Krantzfield*, whether



whether because the behaviour of *Tachtembach* was unpleasing to her, or that she was impatient to see *Teckeli* again. She said every moment to the Countess, that the season of the Waters was going over, and prevailed with her at last to go to *Drontheim*. She found there *Teckeli*, who was one of the first come thither, and who was as much in love as at *Lapfina*; he complained of her having deferred coming so long, but she obligingly gave him to understand, that if the day of her departure had depended upon her own will, she would not have stayed so long from thence. Prince *Ragotski* was also come thither, with the Princess his Mother, and having heard of the arrival of the Countess of *Serini*,

*Serini*, he went to give her a visit; he was not less Charmed with the Beauty and the Wit of this young Lady, than the other Lords which had seen her, saying, like a Courtier, to these Ladies, that although it might make him pass for an undutiful Son, he could not be sorry for the troubles which this Journey cost to his Mother, since they had furnisht him with an opportunity of making so agreeable an acquaintance; they rallied a long time upon the effect of the Waters: The Countess said, that she was of opinion, that the Diversions of these places, where they went to drink them, contributed more to the restoring of Health, than the vertue of them. Prince *Ragot-*  
*ski*

ski added, that he very much doubted, whether the coldness of the Vitriol, with which the Waters were tinged, would be able to put out that flame, with which he of late found himself consumed. The Countess rallied this Prince, for this pleasant way of declaring his Love, and told him, that certainly he was very easie to be inflamed, if any fair Lady had already kindled in his Heart so great a Flame. But *Aurora Veronica* did not concern her self in this Conversation, and seemed always very reserved. After *Ragotski* was gone, the Countess asked her Daughter, why she had been so serious, and commanded her to look upon this Prince as a Man that was designed by her Relations to be her Husband.

Lady

Lady *Veronica* was extremely surprized at her Mother's discourse, and not being willing to discover to her her real thoughts, she made some slight indisposition her excuse. So soon as she could have opportunity of discoursing with *Teckeli* in private, she did not fail of letting him know what force they intended to put upon her inclinations; but she not engaging her self so far as to disobey her Fathers orders, the Count accused her for being more sensible of Ambition than Love, and swore to her, that if she would always be faithful to him, he would set a Crown upon her Head, otherwise he would dye in the execution of his design. But although

though he said at the same time to her, the most passionate things in the World, he could obtain nothing more of her.

*Ragotski*, whose passion grew greater every moment, did not fail of asking Lady *Veronica*, the first time he had the opportunity of discoursing with her in private, whether she would give any ear to his Suit, and whether she would allow him to make his Proposition to her Father? Although the amiable *Veronica* answered him with great indifferency; yet he spoke to Count *Serini* concerning this Affair, who seemed to him, to be very glad that he should seek his Alliance; that he could not let him have his Daughter, unless he

he would enter into the League which was made against the Emperour, and promised him, that he would seise upon *Mencatz*, and of his Fathers Treasures, which was extreemly necessary to make so great a design succeed. *Ragotski* was too much in Love, to refuse any thing to Count *Serini*; he promised him to follow blindly his Orders; and being assured of his Consent to the Marriage of his Daughter, he went to make the same Proposition to the Princess his Mother, who knowing the advantages that would accrue to her Son, by this alliance, easily consented to it. It is true, she knew nothing of the Terms which Count *Serini* had imposed upon her Son, which had she done,

done, she would never have agreed to them, she being entirely of the Emperour's Party.

*Ragotski*, whose Love could not endure any delay, gave an account to the Father of *Veronica*, of the thoughts which he found his Mother had, and desired him he would not defer his happiness any longer. The Count, to satisfy him, spoke immediately to his Daughter, telling her of the engagement he had lately made with *Ragotski*, and commanded her to dispose her self to Marry him within three days. Lady *Veronica* endeavoured to make some opposition, but the Count spoke to her with so much Authority, that she did not dare any more to resist such pressing Orders ;

Orders ; all that she could do, was to manage a private Conference with *Teckeli*, to let him know the trouble it was to her, to lose him. But this Count perceived, through all the marks of her Love, that the Quality which *Ragotski* would by marrying her, make her possess, would soon comfort her for the loss of a beloved Lover.

*Ragotski's* Marriage was performed without pomp. Count *Serini* not thinking it proper that this Marriage should be publick, until he had put his other designs into a condition of succeeding happily ; but the *Palatine's* Death, which hapned a little while afterwards, soon broke all their Measures. So soon as *Ragotski* had brought his



his Wife home to *Schachthorn*, where she was to pass the Winter ; he took his measure how to make himself Master of *Mencatz*, but he was not able to surprize that place, as he was resolved, nor to seize upon his Fathers Treasures, because his Mother, having discovered his design, got thither before him, and took so well her precaution, that she even hindred him from being received into the Town. This enterprize failing, made an end of putting the Conspirators into disorder.

Before this News was brought to Count *Serini*, *Tachtembach* prevailed with him, to come to pass the *Carnaval* at *Gratz*, and to bring with him thither, the Countess and  
the

the Princeſs *Ragotski*, of whoſe marriage he was yet ignorant. Count *Serini*, would not reſuſe him the ſatiſfaction, came into *Stiria* on the firſt *Wednesday* of the *Carnaval*. *Tachtembach*, who was always very magnificent, did, as he was uſed, endeavour to divert his Gueſt, the beſt that was poſſible for him to do, and made one of the laſt days of the *Carnaval* a *Wirſchaaf*, which is a ſort of *Masquerade*, wherein every one puts on the Habit of a different Nation, or Profeſſion. *Tachtembach* was in the Habit of a *Mountebank*, and diſtributed to the Ladies of the Hall, Bills, wherein were written Verſes, which diſcovered his Love.

All theſe Diversions were  
diſturbed

disturbed by the coming in of  
 a Gentleman, whom Prince  
*Ragotski* had dispatched to  
 Count *Serini*, to acquaint him  
 with the unfortunate success  
 of his Enterprize. Count *Serini*  
 immediately took his leave  
 of *Tachtembach*, to return to  
*Scachthorn*, that he might give  
 out his orders, for the raising  
 of Forces, recommending very  
 earnestly to this Count, his  
 making himself Master of *Gratz*.  
*Tachtembach*, in his turn, being  
 ignorant of Prince *Ragotski's*  
 marriage with Count *Serini's*  
 Daughter, desir'd this Count  
 to reserve for him this lovely  
 Person, as his reward, for what  
 he was going to undertake for  
 the service of the Party ; to  
 which Count *Serini* answered,  
 that he should always have a  
 grateful

grateful sense of what he should do upon this occasion, and that he would neglect nothing which might contribute towards his satisfaction. *Tachtembach*, who was of no very quick Parts, took this civility for current, and believed that he might ground upon these words a certain hope of seeing his love gratified. Whilst Count *Serini* prepared all things which were necessary for the beginning of the War in the Spring, *Tachtembach* was not asleep, he sent to Count *Serini* his first *Valet de Chambre*, by whom he let him know, that he intended within a fortnight, to come, towards the closing of the Evening, with five Wag-gons filled with *Turks*, to the Gates of *Gratz* ; and that as  
soon

soon as one had passed over the Bridge, one of the wheels should fall off, and overturn the Waggon, to stop the Gate, and hinder it from being shut, and that at the same time the *Turks* should come out of the other Waggon, and put to the Sword; all those they should find in the *Corps de Garde*; but that it might not be possible for the Undertaking to fail, it was necessary for him to advance with some Forces which he should conceal near the Town, staying till he had notice of the success of this great Design.

Count *Serini* promised this *Valet de Chambre*, to do what his Master desired, and they agreed together of all the Circumstan-

cumstances. But by misfortune this young man had heard, from some of Count *Serini's* Servants, of his Daughter's marriage with Prince *Rogotski*, and informed *Tachtembach* of it. This Brutish Count, instead of rewarding the Honesty of this Servant, in the despair into which this news had cast him, sent him to Prison, accusing him of Robbery, to revenge himself upon him, for the deceit which had been used towards him, as if he had been guilty of it.

This unfortunate young man, after having suffered his imprisonment some days, hoping that his Master would come back from his injustice; but when he saw that he continued

ed to persecute him, he resolved to recover his liberty, by his destruction; and having yet about him, the instruction which *Tachtembach* had given him, written with his own hand, when he had sent him to *Schachthorn*, he put them into the hands of *Francis Will*, Country Provost, who gave it to *Barron Oker*, Chancellor of the Kingdom, and by these means the Emperour was informed of the Secret of the whole Conspiracy; his Imperial Majesty immediately sent Orders to *Oker*, to seize upon the Person of *Tachtembach*, which he did in this manner. This Count, who suspected nothing, returned to *Gratz*, and going to take his Seat in the Sovereign Council, as he was

accustomed to do, President *Punzi* sent the Clerk to amuze him in the Anti-chamber, waiting till he had taken the measures necessary for the seizing of his Person; a little while afterwards, the Judge of the Town came to demand his Sword, having made ten or twelve Soldiers which had been sent for, conveyed him to the Castle, where he was kept very strictly.

As soon as the Emperor knew that *Tachtembach* was in hold, he sent General *Spankaw* with 6000 men, two pieces of great Canon, and 16 Field pieces, with Orders to march against Count *Serini*, and to take the Castle of *Schachthorn*; this Count having notice of it, sent



sent a Gentleman to *Vienna*, to give his Imperial Majesty assurances of his Loyalty; but although his submission was received, *Spankaw* did notwithstanding besiege *Scatchhorn*; Count *Serini* and *Frangipani* his Brother-in-Law, not finding themselves in a Condition to make any defence, left all that they had in the Town, and went out of it by a secret Salli-Port, and went towards *Vienna*, hoping to clear themselves; where they were no sooner arrived, but their Persons were seized, and sent Prisoners to the Castle, from whence they were afterwards conveyed to *Niewstadt*.

In the mean time, General *Spankaw*, having taken *Scatchhorn*, seized upon all the goods

of these two imprisoned Counts, imprisoning the Countess of *Serini*, and the Princess her Daughter ; but Prince *Ragotski* having made his peace, by the intercession of his Mother, who had very good interest in the Imperial Court, obtained his Wifes liberty, upon Condition that he would receive a German Garrison in *Mencatz*.

Count *Teckely's* Father died during these revolutions in his Castle of *Kuz*, but it being known that he had a hand in the Conspiracy, his Son was, notwithstanding his Death, besieged in this Place, but so soon as he heard of the March of the Imperial Army, he retreated by Night to *Licora*, an important place in upper *Hungary*, upon the Frontiers of *Tran-*

*Transilvania*, with *Kirzi*, *Paragotzi* and *Baragotzi*, who were three of the bravest men in this Kingdom, and of the same Age with *Teckeli*, they defended themselves like Lyons, but a *Bombe* having set fire to their Magazeen of Powder, and *Baragotzi* being taken in a salley, the two others escaped with *Teckely*; and after having marched in the dark through private ways, without meeting any ill accident, they arrived at *Hue*, a strong Castle at the entrance into *Transilvania*, and after having remained some days, they went for Sanctuary to Prince *Abasti's* Court, who was then Sovereign of this Country, and under the Protection of the *Turk*.

There remained now no

D 4 place

place but *Murano*, where the *Palatine's* Widow had lived, since the death of her Husband, with her Son, and Count *Paul Wesselini* her Brother-in-Law, the Emperor sent Prince *Charles* of *Lorraine* to take it; and the two *Wesselini's* not finding themselves in a Condition to hold out a Siege, retired also into *Transylvania*, to Prince *Abastie's* Court, and the *Palatine's* Widow opened the Gates of the Town to the Imperial Forces.

The Troubles of *Hungary* having been thus appeased, the Counts *de Serini* and *Frangipani* were prosecuted, and at last sentenced to lose their Heads. There were two Jesuits sent to them, to prepare them for death, and Count *Serini* was  
very

very much amazed, to know one of them to be *Joshua*, who had been in love with his Daughter, and fought for her with the *Palatine's* Son. They could neither of them hold from Tears, seeing each other after so long an Absence. Count *Serini* intrusted, before he went to Execution, *Joshua* with a Letter to carry to his Wife, in which he bad her farewell, and this *Monk* took it from him by consent of the Imperial Commissioners, who were sent to *Larolstadt* to see the Sentence put in Execution upon the two Counts.

Immediately after their Execution, Father *Joshua* went by his Superiours Permission to *Gratz*, where the Countess was a Prisoner, and she was not less

surprized, when she knew this Monk, than she was at his telling her the Tragical end of her Husband. Father Joshua lived at Gratz, until the death of Tachtembach, who had a like Fate with that of the Counts. He also entrusted this Jesuite with a Letter to Princess Ragotski, the Contents whereof were as follow.

**I** Am now going to dye for having obeyed you with too much exactness. I should give up my Life without reluctancy, if I were assured you were satisfied ; but I can scarce believe you love Greatness so much as to think it a happiness, when it costs you a Father and an Uncle. I will not put amongst the misfortunes, which this unfortunate

*fortunate Conspiracy has caused to you, the loss of a Lover; but you would not be to be pitied wholly, if Prince Ragotski has for you the strong Passion which has been preserved for you to the Grave, notwithstanding your Infidelity, by the unfortunate*

**Tachtembach.**

Immediately after the Execution of this Count, Father Joshua went to carry the Letter to Princess Ragotski, who was still at *Mencatz*, he found her yet in an extream affliction, for the Death of her Father. *Tachtembach's* Letter renewed yet more her Grief; and she answered Joshua only by a Torrent of Tears; she was so taken up by her Grief, that

that she had looked upon this Jesuite without knowing him, until after the first Motions of her Passion were passed, she remembered his Face, and asked him how this change of his Condition had happened. *It was, Madam,* replied Joshua, *because I was not able to prevail with you to love me; but you had reason not to lessen your self so much as to stoop to such a Man as I am, since Fortune reserved you for a Quality, to which it was not in my Power to raise you.* *Alas!* replied the Princess sighing, *it is not greatness which makes our happiness. I am of opinion that the condition of a Shepherdess is to be preferr'd before mine.* Is it Prince Ragotski, replied Joshua that—*This unjust Husband,* continued the Princess



Princess, interrupting him, has used me with the greatest scorn, since my Father's Misfortunes. He keeps always Mistresses, and I dare not complain; and the Princess his Mother is always upbraiding me with my being the Daughter of a Rebel; and far from sweetning this Princess mind, when he is angry with me, she foment the Division, and feeds a flame, which she ought to endeavour to extinguish. Father Joshua endeavoured as much as he could to comfort the Princess; and the Prince her Husband being sick, he was resolved not to leave her, until he saw the success of this sickness. Ragotski, after having languished two Months, at length died with great trouble to leave his Wife, whose Ver-  
tue

ture he very well knew, by the care she took of him, during the whole time that he kept his Bed by reason of his sickness.

After the Death of *Ragotski*, the Princess his Widow rekindled the Fires of *Joshua's* Love. He had not yet professed himself, according to the Custom of the Jesuits, who do not make their Profession till very late. She allowed him to hope she would reward his Constancy, upon the Condition he would revenge the Death of her Father. *Joshua*, flattered with these sweet hopes, promised to undertake any thing to satisfy her; and they resolved together, that he should go to the Heads of the Male-contents, which were retired, and

and that he should seek out with them the means of raising an oppressed Party.

The Princess gave to *Joshua* all the Money and Jewels which she had, and he departed immediately for *Mentatz*; to set on foot again this great Design. He bought, at the next Town, a good Horse, and Arms, with Cloaths fit for a Souldier, and went with all speed to *Alba Julia*, where Prince *Abasti* commonly kept his Court.

He there found all the Malecontents, which were retired thither, and represented to them so well the disposition, wherein the People of *Hungary* were to recover their Freedom, and especially the Protestants, that he engaged them  
to

to take up Arms. Prince *Abasti* allowed them to raise Forces in his Countries. Count *Paul Wesselini* was named to Command the Army. The Count *de Foruabli* took upon him the Journey to *Poland*, from whence he hoped to bring considerable Succours. For his Majesty of *Poland* having made Peace with the Grand Signior, had disbanded a great many of his Forces. *Jashua* took upon him the charge of going to *Buda*, there to get from the *Bassa* some *Turks*. Count *Teckeli* remained alone at *Alba Julia*, telling his Companions, that he should be most useful to them in *Transilvania*, because he hoped to dispose Prince *Abasti*, by the Interest he had gained with him, to declare War against the

the Emperour. In effect, he represented to him that the late Prince *Ragotski* had yielded up to the Emperour, by the last Treaty of Peace which they had made, the Countries of *Zathmar* and *Kalo*, which were Ancient Dependants upon *Transylvania*, and prevailed with him to send a famous Embassy to the Emperour to demand them, with Protestation, that in case they were refused to him, he would put himself into a Posture to recover them by force of Arms.

*Joshua* being returned from *Buda*, after having joyned the *Turks*, sent by the *Bassa* to re-inforce the *Transilvanians* and *Hungarians*, which *Wesselini* Commanded, resolved to return to *Mencatz*, to give an account

account to Princess *Ragotski* of what he had done, in the execution of her Orders; and that he might have the easier access to her, he took upon him again the Habit of a Jesuit. He told her first what he had done at *Alba Julia*; but he not speaking of *Teckeli*, she inquired for him. *Joshua*, who had heard of the Inclination which she had shewn to this Count, before her Marriage, told her maliciously, that he was kept at *Alba Julia*, by the Charms of Princess *Euphrosina*, Daughter to Prince *Abasti*; and that the report was in that Court, that he would shortly be Son-in-Law to his Master. Princess *Ragotski* was struck with the perfideousness of her Lover, that she fell into a deep study,

study, out of which it was impossible for *Joshua* to rescue her all that day ; and even afterwards she was constrained, by his Presence, that obliged him to leave *Mencatz*, whether because she was not willing to have him a Witness of her weakness, or that she suspected him for having invented this story to destroy in her mind a Rival that was loved by her. *Joshua*, who was well assured that this news would be confirmed from several places, this report being very common at *Alba Julia*, returned to the Army to give her leisure to take her resolution.

Count *Teckeli* had nothing to do at *Alba Julia*, until the Ambassador which Prince *A-*  
*basti*

*Basti* had sent to the Emperor;  
 was returned, so that he resol-  
 ved to take this time, to go to  
 see Princess *Ragorski*, who was  
 not less dear to him, than be-  
 fore her Marriage. When he  
 was arrived at *Litora*, which  
 is not far from *Mencatz*, he  
 dressed himself like a Pedlar,  
 and having put a little Pack  
 upon his Back, and immedi-  
 ately went to the Town,  
 where his Princess most com-  
 monly lived. He found ways  
 to be admitted into the Palace,  
 and having opened his Pack,  
 and having shewed her several  
 Toyes, he presented to her,  
 her Picture in Minature, which  
 she had given to him at his  
 departure from *Lapsina*, and  
 which he had enchased in a  
 Golden Box, set with Diamonds



of great value. The Princess surprized with so extraordinary an accident, looked earnestly upon the Pedlar, and knew him under his Disguise, but she pretended she did not, and asked him from whence he had that Picture? *Teckeli*, taking at the same time out of his Pack, his own Picture, which he had caused to be drawn at *Alba Julia* for him, told her that the Gentleman, whose Picture that was, had given him the Picture she enquired about. Where is at present, replied the Princess, pretending still not to know him, he that made you so great a Present? *He is at Alba Julia*, replied the Pedlar, preparing to enter into Hungary with a strong Army, to revenge the death

death of Count Serini. Say rather, replied the Princess, he is at the feet of Princess Euphrosina; that, forgetting what he owes to his Honour, her Person, and his own Engagements, he swears to her, that he lives for her. I know not Madam, replied the Count angrily, who has thus mis-inform'd you; but if a poor Pedlar may speak of the Affairs of the Court, he has stayed at Alba Julia, solely for the Service of his Party, and for the beautiful Person, which triumphed over his Heart in Hungary, who is yet Mistress of it. Whilst Teckeli was speaking thus, the Princess, who had looked over all his Pictures, she fixed her Eyes upon that of Princess Euphrosina, and asked him the Name of the Person whose

whose Picture that was. *This is, replied the Pedlar, the Person, who you say has made the Gentleman, of whom we have now spoken, false.* The Princess, without returning any answer, took this last Picture, and having given order to one of her Maids, to pay the Pedlar for what she had bought, she went into her Closet, without allowing any body to follow her, and left the Count in a Consternation, hardly to be conceived, unless one has loved as he did. He stayed a fortnight at *Mencatz*, hoping to find an opportunity of conversing with the Princess, and justifying himself; but she took so much care to avoid him, that all his endeavours were in vain. He endeavoured to find

find out in his mind, during his stay at *Mencatz*, the cause of his disfavour, and endeavoured to guess who could have sowed these suspicions in the mind of the Princess. He had no other Rivals, but *Wessellini* and *Joshua*, and therefore he could accuse but one of them, and he resolved to clear his doubts, as soon as he came to the Army.

Whilst he was agitated with these different thoughts, the Princess was not in greater quiet. *If the Count*, said she to her self, *had any passion for the Princess Euphrosina, he would not have come to Mencatz in so much danger, and in a habit so unfit for his Quality; and he would not have gone so far from her, to give some Rival the opportunity*

opportunity of making an advantage  
 by his Absence. But she took  
 her self up again, a moment  
 afterwards. *Would he be so guilt-*  
*ty, as he seems to me, should*  
*he be led away by the Charms*  
*of the Princess of Transilva-*  
*nia? I was married to another,*  
*and had forsaken him to marry*  
*Prince Ragotski, after having*  
*engaged him in a Conspiracy*  
*which had made him lose all his*  
*Estate, and had forced him to*  
*banish himself from his Countrey.*  
*He found in a strange Country*  
*a fair Person, who offered him*  
*a Crown together with her Hand.*  
*He would have been unfurnish'd*  
*of all reason, if he had let slip*  
*so fair an opportunity, of repa-*  
*ring all his losses. And yet so*  
*soon as he hears I am a Widow,*  
*and in a Condition to dispose of*  
 E my

*my Person; he renounces all his fair hopes, and comes to make a Sacrifice of them to me, what can I desire more?*

Princess *Ragorski* settled her self so firmly in this last thought, that she resolved to explain her self to Count *Teckelz*; she caused him to be looked for in the whole Town, but in vain. He had ordered one of his Gentlemen to give him notice at *Mencarz*, when the Ambassadour, which Prince *Abasti* had sent to the Imperial Court, should return to *Alba Julia*. He heard by this Officer, that the Emperor had refused to restore the Counties of *Zaphmar* and *Kalo*, and that they stayed only for him, to begin the Campaign, which forced him to depart with great speed.

So

So soon as he was returned to *Alba Julia*, he made the Forces of *Transilvania* march, and the first of the Acts of Hostilities which they committed, was the siege of *Zathmar*; in less than a Fortnight, he reduced this Town to such extremity, as would have forced it to capitulate, had not Prince *Abasti* sent him orders to come back, to oppose one of the greatest Lords of all *Transilvania*, called *Pedi Pol*; who having been invested with this Principality by the Grand Seignior, and had made a considerable Party in the Country, which intended to dispossess their Sovereign. Count *Teckeli* was too grateful, to abandon his *Benefactor* in so imminent a danger; he no sooner had no-

rice of it, but he raised the siege of *Zathmar*, and returned to *Transilvania*, not only with the Army which he commanded, but also with the Auxiliary Forces, which *Forval* had conducted thither, under the command of the Count of *Boham*, and who had newly beaten a Detachment out of the Imperial Army, commanded by Major General *Smith*. Count *Teckeli* met *Pedi Pol*, going to besiege *Zebin*, and having charged him, without giving him time to know his strength, he put him to flight, and forced him to retreat into *Walachia*, with the Chancellor *Bertblæus*, who had embraced his side.

It was not enough, that *Teckeli* delivered Prince *Abasti* from  
from



from so powerful a Competi-  
 tour ; but it was also necessary  
 to hinder the Grand Signior  
 from taking *Pedi Pol's* part.  
*Teckeli*, who thought nothing  
 impossible, when the Service  
 of his Friends required any  
 thing, and who had not less  
 Skill in managing Affairs of the  
 Closet, than Valour to beat  
 his Enemies, when he is at  
 the Head of an Army, offer-  
 ed Prince *Abasti* to go to *Con-*  
*stantinople*, to defend there his  
 Cause: His Offers being ac-  
 cepted of, he departed imme-  
 diately, laden with very rich  
 Presents for the Chief Officers  
 of the *Ottoman* Court.

As soon as he was arrived at  
*Constantinople*, he desired Au-  
 dience. The Grand Vizier  
*Kara Mustapha*, who was so  
 pleased

pleased with his Wit, that after two or three Conferences, he intrusted him with his most secret Affairs, and confessed to him that Sultaness *Validé*, Mother to the Grand Signior, for whom he had but a bare indifferency, and that he had disposed of all his Inclinations to the Princess *Basclari*, Sister to his Highness, and Widow to *Aflam Bassa Beglierby* of *Asta*; but that the Jealousie of Sultaness *Validé* was an Obstacle to all his Pleasures, but that there now came into his mind, a way of freeing himself from the Importunities of this Princess, which was to afford her Love another Object; that for this it was necessary it should be a Man endowed with the Graces of the Body, as well

as

as the Charms of the Mind, and that all this Concurring in his Person, he desired him to go in his place the night following to an assignation appointed with him by the Sultaneſs. The Proposition was nice, and he ventured his Life, in caſe he was diſcovered, but the deſire of ſo powerful a Miniſter as this was, were commands to him.

This laſt conſideration outweighed the firſt. *Teckeli* ſhewed he thought himſelf honoured with the Viziers truſt, and proteſted he was ready to obey his Commands. This Miniſter having given him the Inſtructions neceſſary for getting the Doors opened, and how to deceive the Kiſtler *Agah*, who had the chief care of the Seralio,

glio, disposed himself to venture his Fortune, and abandoned himself to it, which was so favourable to him, that he got, without opposition, to the Apartment of Sultaneſs *Validé*; ſhe was ſurprized to ſee an Unknown Perſon come in; but ſhe being informed of the Intrigue between the Vizier and the Princeſs *Baſclari*, ſhe eaſily underſtood, that he had a mind to put the change upon her; but Count *Teckel's* Perſon not diſpleaſing her, ſhe was willing to ſpare him ſo difficult a Complement as his Circumſtances obliged him to make. She told him ſhe ſaw very well, that he came in the room of *Kara Muſtapha*, who, probably, had more important Affairs

fairs upon his hands, than that of making his Court to her; and that she was very willing to pardon the scorn he shewed of her Goodness, since he gave her an opportunity of so happily recovering the loss which she made, by being deprived of his Company. *Teckeli* endeavoured to excuse him, by reason of the weight of Affairs which he was under, being charged with all the Affairs of the *Ottoman* Empire. The Sultaneſs ſoon paſſed from this Diſcourſe to another ſort more tender, and remained ſo well ſatiſfied with *Teckeli*, that ſhe often deſired to ſee him. This Count had ſoon learned the way of making Love in the Seraglio, and how *Selams* were to be compoſed, which are the

Love-Letters made use of in this Amorous Commerce; he made one as tender, as if he had lived all his time at *Constantinople*, and received, in Answer, Musk, Amber, and other Aromatick Gums, by which he might perceive his Services were acceptable; but he had Affairs which were more pressing than this Amour. It was necessary to destroy *Pedi Pol's* Faction, and it was to this he applied himself with so much diligence, that the Vizier granted him whatsoever he pleased.

Although *Teckeli's* Person pleased *Sultaneſs Valide* extremely, yet she did not forget the Vizier's Perfideousness; and to be revenged of him, she perswaded the Grand Signior to marry

marry *Basclari* to the *Bessa* of *Buda*. This Prince, who did not penetrate into the motives which induced his Mother to this Affair, easily consented to what she had proposed, and gave, at her request, Count *Teckeli* the Charge of Conducting his Sister into *Hungary*. The Count's Affairs being now finished, and it not being now safe for him to stay longer in *Constantinople*, without doing a prejudice to his Party, she would not keep him longer, and thought that *Teckeli* being very handsome, might, in this long Journey, affect the Heart of her Rival, and blot out of it the Image of *Kara Mustafa*.

*Teckeli* would not, notwithstanding, leave *Constantinople*,  
without

without acquainting the Vizier with the Employment which had been given to him. This unfortunate Lover was seized with a violent Grief, when he learned the trick that Sultaness *Validé* had plaid him; he, however, comforted himself with the hopes, that he might preserve a Correspondence with *Basclari*, by the means of Count *Teckeli*, and that it would not be hard for him, in the Post wherein he was, and the Credit his Office gave him, to ruine the *Bassa* of *Buda*, and to restore *Basclari* to her former Liberty.

Count *Teckeli* during the whole Journey discoursed with the Princess concerning *Kara Mustapha*, and found her very  
much



much afflicted to see her self married to any other but this Minister. She desired the Count to visit her often, upon pretence of endeavouring to obtain assistance for his Party, to the end they might together take means which might one day joyn her Fate with that of the Vizier.

This Behaviour will seem without doubt, very Criminal to some, and it will hardly be conceived, how a Woman, just going to be married, thinks at the same time of getting another Husband; but this is not extraordinary to these Princesses, who take Husbands only to enrich themselves with their Spoils, and who sometimes have had three or four before they are of Age, to consummate

summate the Marriage. Every Nation has its Customs, and that which seems most to be blamed in one Country, is commendable in another. But this is enough of Moral Reflections, let us return to Count *Tec-keli*.

When he had put *Basclari* into the Hands of the *Bassa* of *Buda*, he took leave of both, after having written to the Vizier, to give him an account of the thoughts of the Sultanness, and returned to *Alba Fudlia*, where he heard *Pedi Pol* had been defeated a second time, and taken Prisoner; and there being nothing more now to be feared from the Port, every thing remained in Peace.

In the Spring *Teckeli* took the Field again with the *Transylvanian* Forces, and having entred *Hungary*, he went to joyn the Army of the Malecontents, near *Lassovia*, which he found commanded by Count *Vladislaus Wesselini*, who had succeeded his Uncle, Count *Paul Wesselini*, in that Command. *Teckeli* could not brook obeying his Rival, and a Rival by whom he thought himself ruined in the thoughts of his Mistress; and *Wesselini* would not yield it to Count *Teckeli*. Upon this these two Heads of the Faction quarrelled; the Army took parts with their Generals, and in a moment a private Quarrel became a General Battel. The *Hungarians* were

were soon forced to yield to the *Transilvanians*; *Wessellini* seeing his Body broken, took flight, accompanied by some few of his Party. *Teckeli* caused him to be pursued by Count *Thekaioli*, who commanded his right Wing; he was soon overtaken, and brought back to his Rival, who sent him Prisoner to *Zelin*. This Tumult ceased with the taking of *Wessellini*; and *Teckeli* was immediately acknowledged General by both Armies.

Some days after *Teckeli* sent *Thekaioli* into *Croatia* with the Recruits from *Poland*, and some *Hungarians*. The Count having charged a Party of the Imperialists, took Count *Serini*

ni Prisoner, who commanded them. Princess *Ragotski* having heard of her Brother's misfortune, whom she loved very dearly, resolved to write to *Teckel* to obtain his Liberty from him; but at the same time she was willing to make him believe she had no kindness for him. Her Letter was in the following Terms, which which were to express such contrary thoughts.

**I** *It is very grievous to me to see a Man, whom I should not have thought unworthy of my Esteem, ruine his own Country, and tear from me, what remains of most dear to me: You may imagine I mean my Brother. My Mother died at Gratz, before she could obtain her Liberty; and*

and Count Serini is your Prisoner. Believe me, leave a course which cannot fail of bringing ruine upon you, return to your Obedience to your Sovereign, and I promise you to obtain the restitution of all your Estate. Nay, I will oblige myself to tye you a little faster to me, to marry you to Prince Ragotski's Sister. I shall know by your answer what thoughts you have, in relation to,

A. V. de Serini.

He that Princess Ragotski had entrusted with the Letter, having heard that Count Serini was Thekaioli's Prisoner, believed, the Letter was directed to him, and being mistaken by the likeness of the sound  
of

of their Names, gave the Letter to this Count, who being willing to make an advantage of the mistake, returned with this Messenger to *Mencatz*, and carried thither Count *Serini*. He had entrusted *Josbua*, who serv'd in his Army, with this Adventure, he being his particular Friend ; *Josbua* resolved to accompany him, and having put the change upon him, conducted him to the Princess *Ragotski* the Dowager ; who, hoping to do a great service to the Emperour, if she could make these two Heads of the Party, who were in great consideration with them, leave the Malecontent Party ; promised *Thekaioli* he should marry her Daughter, if he could bring over the Army which he commanded,

manded, to the the Emperour's Party, and conducted him herself to *Cunegonda* her Daughters Chamber, by whom he was very kindly received.

Whilst *Thekaioli* endeavoured to please the late Prince *Ragotski's* Sister, *Joshua* went to visit the Widow, and make an end of ruining *Teckeli* in her thoughts, told her, that he would neither answer her Letter, nor grant Count *Serini* liberty; that by good luck, he was with *Teckeli* when he received the Letter, and not being able to suffer so much Ingratitude, he had treated himself with *Thekaioli*, and had engaged him to bring back to her, her Brother. Altho' the Princess was sensibly grieved, at the scorn *Teckeli* seem'd to have



have of her, yet she took no notice of it to *Joshua*, and contented herself, with protesting to him, that she should always acknowledge the service which he had done for her. *Joshua*, who was not satisfied with bare Civilities, pressed extreamly the Princess to reward his faithfulness and Constancy: This earnestness made her suspect something, and she was desirous to clear her doubts. She took one night her Brother aside, and asked him so many questions, as well as her Messenger, that at last she found *Joshua* was a Cheat. The Artifice which he had used upon this last occasion to surprize her kindness, made her make reflections upon what he had told her of the Amours of

*Teckeli*

*Teckeli*, with Princess *Euphrosina*, and thinking she was to give no more heed to what a Man said who once intended to deceive her, she was very much pleased, to be able to believe her Lover innocent, and resolved to undertake any thing which might procure her an interview with him.

In the mean while, *Joshua*, who easily perceived that the Princess had discovered his Cheat, fearing he should be arrested at *Mencatz*, returned to the Army with *Thekaioli*. The Officers of the Army, who had heard that the Count came from a Place, which ought to be suspected by them, would not acknowledge him any more for their General, until

until they first knew Count *Teckeli's* thoughts, which forced him to go to *Vienna* with *Joshua*. This last made there his peace; but the Dowager Princess *Ragotski*, would not now accept of him for her Son-in-Law, he having no more the Command which he had of those Forces, which he commanded before.

*Thekaioli*, seeing his measures broken on all sides, went into *Transilvania*, and having given a Visit to Count *Wesselini* in his Prison; he told him *Joshua's* Treachery, and all he had said to Princess *Ragotski*, to perswade her that *Teckeli* was in love with Princess *Euphrosina*. *Wesselini* who had heard that the principal Cause of his

Confine-

Confinement, was, that *Teckeli* was jealous; that it was he who had made this false report to Princess *Ragotski*, let him know that *Joshua* was the Author of it. Count *Teckeli* would not at first believe *Wesselini* upon his bare word only, but by good luck the Prisoner, *Joshua* commanding a Party of the Imperialists, fell into an Ambuscade, and was brought to Count *Teckeli*, who interrogated him, in particular concerning this Treachery. *Joshua*, to whom life was become burthensome, since he had lost the hopes of possessing the Princess, confessed all to his Rival, who sent him to the Council of War. His Sentence was soon passed, he was found with Arms in his hands, against the  
Male-

Malecontents, of which Party he had been a long time, and so he was looked upon as a Rebel, and condemned to be beheaded, which Sentence was immediately executed upon him.

Count *Teckeli*, who valued himself upon his strict justice, thought he ought not to defer any longer the setting *Wessellini* at Liberty, after having punished the Person who was alone guilty of the Crime, whereof he had accused *Wessellini*. He therefore recalled *Thekaioli*, because he had given him the opportunity of discovering a truth, the clearing of which was of the greatest consequence imaginable to him. But it was not enough

F to

to know from whence his Disease proceeded, but it was necessary for him to cure it, and to undeceive Princess *Ragotski*. But now he could not leave the Army without hazarding his Person, and the Interests of his Party. In this perplexity he cast his Eyes upon *Thekaioli*, who seemed proper to him to manage this Negotiation: He was known to the Princess, he had been already at *Mencatz*, he had a pretence of returning thither, which was his Marriage with the Princess *Cunigunda*; and there was no reason which might render him suspicious to this unfortunate Lover. When *Thekaioli* was returned to the Army, *Teckeli* informed him of his Intentions, and having given

given him a Letter to the Princess, he sent him away with all speed to *Mencatz*.

*Thekaioli* arriving there, found the Dowager Princess *Ragotski* dead, which gave him a more easie access to her Daughter-in-Law, he desired he might have Audience, and having obtained his Request, presented to her Count *Teckeli's* Letter, wherein she read that which follows.

**I** did not know, Madam, what occasion I ever gave to deserve the coldness which you shewed towards me the last year, when I went to see you at *Mencatz*; that which I had undertaken, without considering the Danger to which I was going to expose my self; to have the Plea-

sure of seeing you. And yet you would not answer the assurances of my Constancy and Faithfulness; and I have heard you accuse me of having paid elsewhere Vows which I have never offered but unto you. Favour me so much as to let me know if you are not changed in your thoughts towards me, and if you will allow me to come my self to swear to you an inviolable Constancy, and to receive your promises to me.

The Princess would not defer giving *Teckeli* the satisfaction of letting him know he had fully cleared himself to her, she immediately took the pen in her hand, and answered him in these Terms.

**I** Confess, I have doubted of your Constancy, but rather out of



a niceness of thoughts, than any  
 evil impression, which would have  
 been given to me, of your beha-  
 viour in relation to me. My  
 heart took so well your part,  
 that it convinced me of your in-  
 nocency, and I should have made  
 you my excuses, for the indiffe-  
 rency with which I used you, if  
 you had been to be found in the  
 Town when I sent to look for you.  
 I am notwithstanding very glad  
 to learn from your self, that my  
 Reasoning was just, and that I did  
 not suffer my self to be carried  
 away by the Inclination which  
 I had, to think you true, and  
 the desire I had you should be so.  
 But yet I cannot be yours, whilst  
 you are in Arms against your So-  
 veraign, obtain me from the Em-  
 perour, or put your Conquests so  
 far, as not to depend on any one but  
 your self.

Count *Teckeli* had no sooner read the Letter, but he thought how to remove the Obstacles which opposed his happiness. He sent Deputies to the Emperour, to promise him he would return to his Obedience, upon Condition he would consent to his Marriage with Princess *Ragotski*; but this Prince, having caused this Proposition to be considered of by his Council, he was advised not to accept of it, for fear lest *Teckeli* might become too powerful by this Alliance, and that being pushed on by Princess *Ragotski*, who had without doubt inherited the ambitious thoughts of her Mother, he should undertake some more dangerous Enterprize than the former.

Count

Count *Teckeli* seeing all gentle ways stopped, thought of assuring himself by his Arms, of the happiness which was refused to him, and to make himself King of *Hungary*, that he might marry without the Emperours consent. He thought it necessary for the putting this design in execution, to make a stricter Alliance with the Grand Vizier; and as he could not do it without flattering the Passion which he had for *Basclari*, he sent him word it was necessary to ingage the Grand Signior to declare War against the Emperor, and that he should send an Order to the *Bassa* of *Buda* to join his Army to his, because then it might be easie to make the *Bassa's* behaviour suspected by his Master.

*Teckeli* did not find it difficult to perswade the Vizier, what he so much vvithed for, because he looked upon the War of *Hungary*, as a means for him to be near his Princess. He made it be approved of by the Grand Signior, and sent orders to the *Bassa* of *Buda*, to act as he should receive directions from Count *Teckeli*.

Towards the end of the Campagne, the Count did not fail of writing to the Grand Vizier, that he had not been well seconded by the *Bassa* of *Buda*, and that he had infalibly taken *Zathmar* and *Ca-to*, if this *Bassa* had come to him at the time he directed him. The Vizier shewed the Letter.

Letter to the Grand Signior, and perswaded him to send for the *Bassa* and *Teckeli* to *Constantinople*, that he might hear the Complaints and Excuses of each, and know better which of them was in the right.

They both obeyed the Grand Signior's Commands. But altho' the Grand Vizier supported strongly *Teckeli's* Complaints, the Sultaneſs *Validé* knew ſo cunningly how to avert the Storm, which threatened *Ibrahim Baſſa* of *Buda*, whom the Grand Signior ſent back to his Government, with order only to follow diligently, Count *Teckeli's* Directions. In the mean while, the Vizier, who would not be ungrateful to this Count, commanded him by the Grand Signior's Order,

to make himself be Crowned King of *Hungary* in *Buda*, with all the Pomp and Magnificence which could be; *Teckeli* shewed his gratefulness to this Minister, and promised him to continue his Services for him, to the Princess *Basclari*. After he had taken his leave of the Vizier, he returned to *Buda* with the *Bassa*, and being come thither, gave an account to the Princess *Ragotski*, and Prince *Abafii*, of the success of his Journey. *Ibrahim* on his side made known to all the *Bassas* of *Hungary*, the orders which he had received from the Grand Signior, and commanded them to repair immediately to *Buda*, to assist at the Coronation of Count *Teckeli*. He prepared in the mean time a Throne, in the great

great Hall of the Palace, where in the Ancient Kings of *Hungary* recided heretofore, and having ordered it to be furnished with his richest Hangings, he fixed the Day of this Ceremony, to be upon the first day of *November*; and having seated all the *Bassas* upon Benches on each side of the Throne; he deputed two of them to wait upon Count *Teckeli* in his Apartment, and conduct him; so soon as he appeared, *Ibrahim* who was seated upon the Throne with Princess *Basclari*, who came to the Ceremony (contrary to the Customs of the *Turks*, which forbids their Women ever to appear in publick) and to shew the more respect to the Count, came down from the Throne, and went forwards to meet

meeth him : He at the same time, took off his *Hungarian* Bonnet, and put on his Head a Turbant, to signifie that he submitted himself to the Grand Signior, and that he held the Crown of *Hungary* but by his liberality. He then put the Scepter into his right hand, and a Mace of Arms in his left hand, whilst the *Bassa* of *Buda* threw over his Shoulders the Royal Mantles. *Basclari* came afterwards down to the lowest step of the Throne, and having made a sign to *Teckeli* to draw near, and having given him her Hand, made him come up into the place which *Ibrahim* had left empty. At the same time all the *Hungarian* Officers, which had accompanied the new King to this Ceremony, came



came to swear Fealty to him, kneeling with one Knee on the Ground, and to kiss his Hand. After this he was waited upon back into his own Apartment, by the same Officers, and by several *Bassas*. As soon as he was freed from this troublesome throng of People, he took a Pen in his Hand, and wrote to Princess *Ragotski* the following Letter.

**I** Am now King, Madam, and I depend now upon none but God and my Sword; this is the Condition wherein you wished me: But I cannot be happy, if you will not share with me in the Condition to which Fortune has now raised me, since I have only desired a Crown that I might lay it at your Feet. Let me know  
if

if nothing opposes my Happiness,  
and if I may come to offer you  
my Scepter, with my Vows of  
Faithfulness and Constancy.

He sent this Letter to her  
by Thekaioli, and Princess Ra-  
gotski returned him at the same  
time this Answer.

**I**F Fortune has lately Crowned  
you, it is Love must settle  
your Throne. You have Subjects,  
but you have not any Town,  
where you can keep your Court.  
You may come to Mencatz when  
you will, and settle there the  
Seat of your Empire. You shall  
reign, wherever I am, Sovereign.  
Since you have been so long the  
Master of my Heart, it is but just  
you should be so of my Domini-  
ons.

Altho'

Altho' Count *Teckeli* was extremely satisfied to find Princess *Ragotski* in this Disposition, it troubled him inwardly, that the Princess so cunningly twitted him, with his having only the Name of a King. Although the season was not very proper to make War in, he drew together as many *Turks*, Male-content *Hungarians* and *Transylvanians* as he could, and went to besiege *Cassovia*, which he took within a few days; and having forced *Espertes*, and many other places, to acknowledge him for their Sovereign, he assembled the Diet at *Cassovia* the first day of *February*, that he might exercise all the rights of Sovereignty, and afterwards went to *Mencatz*, wherein

wherein Princess *Ragotski*, suffered him to put a Garrison, as also into all other places which belonged to her Husband, and he afterwards married this Princess with great Pomp and Ceremony some days after *Easter*. In the Month of *May* the Grand Vizier came to *Buda*, where Count *Teckeli* came to wait upon him. A little while afterwards the Grand Signior came to *Belgrade*, where the Siege of *Vienna* was resolved upon. *Kara Mustapha* went into the Field in the beginning of *June*, and he afterwards, as it is said, invested that place with an Army of near two hundred thousand Men, but with what success we all know.

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